

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

ORDER NO. 01-193

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
VENTURA COASTAL CORPORATION, OWNER/OPERATOR
INDIO PROCESSING PLANT
North of Indio – Riverside County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

1. Ventura Coastal Corporation (VCC) (hereinafter referred to as the discharger), owns and operates a citrus processing plant (hereinafter referred to as the plant) located approximately four (4) miles north-northeast of the City of Indio at 39-485 Dillon Road, Indio, CA 92202-2511. The plant receives cleaned fruit from packing houses and processes the fruit into citrus products including juice concentrates, dried peel, and citrus oils.
2. The discharger currently operates under Board Order No. 93-026, adopted June 30, 1993, and reports a maximum discharge of 500,000 gallons-per-day (gpd) of cooling tower blowdown, floor and equipment washwater, and citrus peel washwater (wastewater). The wastewater is currently being used to irrigate 135 acres of lemon, grapefruit, and orange trees.
3. The discharger submitted an updated Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) in February 2001 requesting that the existing Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) be modified to permit the irrigation of up to 415 acres of citrus grove and to allow the discharge of up to 750,000 gpd of wastewater. The additional discharge volume will be a result of plant upgrades that will increase plant capacity. The additional wastewater will be very similar in quality to the current wastewater discharge.
4. The trees at the facility are planted at a density of 150 trees per acre and require approximately 22 gpd of irrigation water (Federal Soil Conservation Service (SCS) estimate). According to these estimates, the total 415 acres could potentially accept up to 1.4 million gallons per day (MGD) of irrigation water.
5. The site occupies about 700 acres in W ½ of Section 31, T4S, R8E, and W ½ of Section 5, T5S, R8E, SBB&M as indicated in the attached site map (Figure 1), incorporated herein and made a part of this Board Order.
6. The Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel courses approximately 3.5 miles south of the facility.
7. Process wastewater is routed through a series of screens that remove approximately 40 percent of the suspended solids, or about 1,000 pounds per day (dry weight). The screened solids are applied between rows of citrus trees as mulch. A schematic illustrating the plant's wastewater disposal system is shown in Figure 2 and hereby made a part of this Board Order.
8. Screened water is stored in two (2) 450,000-gallon above-ground steel tanks until it can be applied as irrigation. Water from the tanks passes through an agricultural filter station that uses fabric type filters to remove fine particles that could clog the irrigation system.

9. The facility operates two (2) soil cement lined ponds to store fresh water for irrigation. Backwash water from the agricultural filters is screened and routed to these ponds for reuse.
10. The processing plant and irrigation water supply (when wastewater is not sufficient) is drawn from four (4) onsite wells identified as 5P1, 5F2, 5L2, and 5Q1 and shown on Figure 3.
11. Wastewater that is high in suspended solids, such as centrifuged fruit pulp, bypasses solid removal screens and is applied directly between the rows of citrus trees as mulch.
12. The discharger submitted a "Site and Waste Characterization Study" (SWCS) dated April 8, 1991, which analyzed the geology, hydrology, site, and wastewater characteristics, which indicated that the pH of the native soil is about 8.1.
13. The discharger reports that the shallowest depth to groundwater at the facility is 66 feet below ground surface (bgs) measured at well number 5P1 (see Figure 3). The greatest depth to groundwater is reported as 147 feet bgs at well number 5F2.
14. The following chemicals are added to the cooling tower water:

<u>Name of Chemical</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
WESTCOAST 510 Phosphoric acid, Potassium Hydroxide, Polyacrylic acid	Corrosion inhibitor
WESTCOAST 670 Sodium Hypochlorite	Biological growth control

15. The discharger reported the following average characteristics of the discharged wastewater:
 - a. Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) 1010 mg/L
 - b. pH 3.5
16. There are no municipal or domestic water wells within 500 feet of the proposed drip irrigation discharge area.
17. Soil underlying the facility is predominantly composed of alluvial fan and stream wash deposits of sand, gravel, and cobbles. Some clay layers were found between 100 and 600 feet bgs.
18. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California (Basin Plan), adopted on November 17, 1993, designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.
19. The designated beneficial uses of groundwater in the Coachella Hydrologic Subunit are:
 - a. Municipal Supply (MUN)
 - b. Industrial Supply (IND)
 - c. Agricultural Supply (AGR)

20. The designated beneficial uses of waters of the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel are:

- a. Fresh Water Replenishment of the Salton Sea (FRSH)
- b. Water Contact Recreation (REC I)
- c. Noncontact Water Recreation (REC II)
- d. Warm Water Habitat (WARM)
- e. Wildlife Habitat (WILD)
- f. Preservation of Rare, Endangered, or Threatened Species (RARE)

21. Approximately 135 acres of grove have been irrigated with process wastewater for about seven (7) years. Monitoring with tensiometers has indicated that the method of irrigation being used (mini-sprinklers beneath the trees) has not resulted in the wetting front of the soil extending beneath a six-foot depth.

22. The discharger reports that the following measures have been taken to prevent excessive ponding or penetration on any irrigated area:

- a. Pressure regulators have been installed in lateral lines to maintain 85 percent uniformity in wastewater application.
- b. An alarm system has been installed which will ring when a pressure drop occurs, to alert irrigation personnel to the possibility of unregulated discharge.
- c. A differential pressure switch has been installed to shut off the wastewater pump if a distribution pipeline breaks.

23. This Board Order updates the Waste Discharge Requirements to comply with current laws and regulations as set forth in the California Water Code and the California Code of Regulations.

24. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.) the Regional Board, acting as lead agency, processed and approved Negative Declaration SCH No. 2001051040 on November 14, 2001.

25. The Board has notified the discharger and all known interested agencies and persons of its intent to issue Waste Discharge Requirements for said discharge, and has provided them with an opportunity for a public meeting and an opportunity to submit comments.

26. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Board Order No. 93-026 is rescinded, and in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, the discharger shall comply with the following:

A. Effluent Limitations

1. Discharged wastewater shall not contain a total inorganic dissolved organic solids (TDS) content in excess of 2,100 mg/L.
2. The hydrogen ion (pH) of the effluent shall be maintained within the limits of 3.2 and the natural background level of the original native soil as described in finding No. 10 above.

3. The amount of discharged wastewater shall not exceed a 30 day maximum average of 750,000 gpd.

B. Discharge Specifications

1. The treatment or disposal of wastes at this facility shall not cause pollution or nuisance as defined in Sections 13050 of Division 7 of the California Water Code.
2. Moisture determinations shall continue to be performed on the 135 acres where tensiometers are installed in accordance with the following:
 - a. Tensiometers shall be kept calibrated and maintained according to manufacturer's recommendations.
 - b. All of the tensiometers installed at the site shall be read within a single 48-hour period.
 - c. The discharger shall notify the Regional Board promptly if the tensiometers indicate that field capacity has been reached at the six-foot level. Exceeding field capacity at the six-foot level is a direct violation of this Board Order.
3. The Regional Board shall be notified if the level of groundwater, as indicated in the monitoring wells, rises 30 feet or more.
4. All discharge locations shall be protected from any washout or erosion and from any inundation which could occur as a result of floods having a predicted frequency of once in 100 years.
5. The existing eight-foot berm shall be maintained to prevent upgradient surface water from running onto the discharge area and to prevent water from flowing out of the discharge area into local surface waters.

C. Discharge Prohibitions

1. The direct discharge of any wastewater to any surface water or surface drainage courses is prohibited.
2. The discharge of wastewater to a location or in a manner different from that described in Finding Nos. 5, 7, 8 and 21 above is prohibited.
3. The discharge or deposit of hazardous waste (as defined in Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations), and other wastes that pose a potential threat to water quality at this facility is prohibited.

D. Provisions

1. The discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 01-193" and future revisions thereto, as specified by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
2. Prior to any change in ownership or management of this operation, the discharger shall transmit a copy of this Board Order to the succeeding owner/operator, and forward a copy of the transmittal letter to the Regional Board.

3. Prior to any modifications in this facility, which would result in material change in the quality or quantity of discharge, or any material change in the location of the discharge, the discharger shall report all pertinent information in writing to the Regional Board and obtain revised requirements before any modifications are implemented.
4. The discharger shall ensure that all site-operating personnel are familiar with the content of this Board Order, and shall maintain a copy of this Board Order at the site.
5. This Board Order does not authorize violation of any federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
6. The Regional Board will review this Board Order periodically and may revise requirements when necessary.
7. The discharger shall allow the Regional Board, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
 - a. Enter upon the premises regulated by this Board Order, or the place where records must be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
 - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that shall be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
 - c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Board Order; and
 - d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Board Order or as otherwise authorized by the California Water Code, any substances or parameters at this location.
8. The discharger shall comply with all of the conditions of this Board Order. Any noncompliance with this Board Order constitutes a violation of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and is grounds for enforcement action.
9. This Board Order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
10. Unless otherwise approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, all analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the State Department of Health Services. All analyses shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants", promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
11. The results of any analysis of samples taken more frequently than required at the locations specified in the Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be reported to the Regional Board.
12. The discharger shall provide an inventory of all hazardous materials that will be handled at the facility by May 15, 2002.

13. The discharger is the responsible party for the Waste Discharge Requirements, and the Monitoring and Reporting Program for the facility. The discharger shall comply with all conditions of these Waste Discharge Requirements. Violations may result in enforcement actions, including Regional Board Orders or court orders, requiring corrective action or imposing civil monetary liability or in modification or revocation of these Waste Discharge Requirements by the Regional Board.
14. The discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information including all calibration and maintenance records, copies of all reports required by this Board Order, and records of all data used to complete the application for this Board Order. Records shall be maintained for a minimum of three (3) years from the date of the sample, measurement, report, or application. This period may be extended during the course of any unresolved litigation regarding this discharge or when requested by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
15. Records of monitoring information shall include:
 - a. The date, exact place, and time of sampling and measurements.
 - b. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements.
 - c. The date(s) analyses were performed.
 - d. The individual(s) who performed the analysis.
 - e. The analytical techniques or methods used.
 - f. The result of such analysis.
16. The discharger shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances), that are installed or used by the discharger to achieve compliance with conditions of this Board Order.
17. The discharger shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical monitoring program reports, and such reports shall be submitted in accordance with the specifications prepared by the Regional Board's Executive Officer. Such specifications are subject to periodic revisions as may be warranted.
18. The discharger shall report any noncompliance that is likely to endanger human health or the environment, within 24 hours of becoming aware of its occurrence. The incident shall be reported to the Regional Board Office and to the Office of Emergency Services. During non-business hours, the discharger shall leave a message on the Regional Board's voice mail. The Office of Emergency Services is operational 24 hours a day. A written report shall be submitted to this office, within five (5) business days of the discharger becoming aware of the incident. The report shall contain a description of the noncompliance, its causes, the duration, and the actual or anticipated time for achieving compliance. The report shall include complete details of the steps that the discharger has taken or intends to take, in order to prevent recurrences. All intentional or accidental spills exceeding 1,000 gallons shall be reported as required by this provision.

I, Philip A. Gruenberg, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on November 14, 2001.

Executive Officer